

As of August 1, 2015, the Medicaid Durable Medical Equipment benefit covers atomizers for the administration of naloxone nasally with a valid prescription for the atomizer. This is a separate benefit from the pharmacy benefit. Naloxone vials and pre-filled syringes are still covered through the pharmacy benefit.

A limit of one atomizer will be covered per naloxone unit dispensed and a maximum of 15 atomizers will be covered per year.

Pursuant to Colorado State Senate Bill 15-053, prescribers may legally write a naloxone prescription for a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist an individual at risk of experiencing an opiate-related drug overdose event. However for Medicaid coverage, the name of the patient on the written prescription must be the same name that is billed to Medicaid. Additionally, prescribers must write a prescription for the atomizer, in addition to the medication, in order for both products to be covered.

Under the Senate Bill, licensed prescribers and dispensers of naloxone products are considered immune from civil and criminal prosecution for any outcomes resulting from prescribing or dispensing naloxone products. This is done in an effort to encourage the administration of opiate agonists for the purpose of saving the lives of people who suffer opiate-related drug overdose events. Although healthcare professionals are granted immunity from administration outcomes, they are strongly encouraged to educate those receiving naloxone on the proper use of the drug for overdose, including instruction concerning risk factors for overdose, recognizing an overdose, calling emergency medical services, rescue breathing, and administration of an opiate antagonist.

Atomizers may be ordered through a pharmacy's current wholesaler, if available, or through a medical supply provider. Atomizers contain different components based on the formulation of the drug as follows:

- Vial: atomization tip, delivery syringe, vial adapter
- Pre-filled Syringe: atomization tip and delivery syringe

Atomizers must be billed as a durable medical equipment (DME) product using the code A4210. The reimbursement process for the atomizers will follow the same procedure as other DME billing. Additional billing information is available at www.colorado.gov/hcpf/billing-manuals then select CMS 1500 then DME and Supplies. Please note that mail order pharmacies do not qualify to provide DME/Supplies.